



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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## Commission Affirms Port Washington Power Plant Construction Decision Statement from David Gilles, PSC Legal Counsel

“The Commission approved the Revised Environmental Assessment (Revised Assessment) regarding the Port Washington Power Plant at its open meeting of March 25, 2004. The Revised Assessment concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement was not required.

The Revised Assessment responds to the January 27, 2004, Dane County Court Decision directing the Commission to reconsider its previous analysis. The Revised Assessment includes an evaluation of environmental impacts of the new, gas-fired units independent of the impacts of the retired coal facilities.

The Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) requires the preparation of an environmental assessment to determine whether an environmental impact statement is needed. Based on the revised environmental assessment, the PSC WEPA Coordinator determined that there are not significant environmental impacts, the project would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary.

The Commission’s order affirmed the determinations that had been made in its original order that authorized construction. The Commission approved a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for WE Energies to construct the gas-fired generators on the site of the existing coal-fired plant in Port Washington on December 20, 2002. The Commission approved the new generators to meet growing electricity demands in eastern Wisconsin.

The Commission approved the new generators to meet eastern Wisconsin's energy demands which grow by about 2% every year. The cumulative impact by 2005 dictates the need for the new electric generation.

The Commission has not determined whether to appeal the Circuit Court decision. The time period for appeal will expire at the end of April."